

State Office of Ethnic Affairs

February 24, 2006

Inauguration of the Utah Black Chamber of Commerce



On February 24, 2006, the Utah Black Chamber of Commerce made its debut in a ceremony that drew approximately 100 supporters at its new offices in the Utah Business Development Alliance building. The chamber was incorporated to help the Black community play a greater role in the development and prosperity of the state. The State Office of Ethnic Affairs presented this initiative to Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. last year. In attendance was Lieutenant Governor, Gary Herbert, the Office of Ethnic Affairs directors and staff, and the Utah Black Chamber Board Members.

Picture: Ribbon Cutting of the Utah Black Chamber of Commerce

February 18, 2006

Moab Health Fair and Community Meeting

The Office of Ethnic Affairs held a community meeting in Moab in collaboration with Comunidades Unidas, the Department of Public Safety, English Language Learning, Four Corners Behavioral Health, Inc., Grand School District, Tobacco Prevention Program, Local Health Department, Mexican Consulate, and the Utah Anti-Discrimination Labor Division (education outreach program). The town hall meeting introduced the Hispanic/Latino Affairs director, the Office of Ethnic Affairs' mission as well as discussing issues impacting the Hispanic/Latino community.

January 19, 2006 to April 26, 2006

Leading to Read Program



The State Office of Ethnic Affairs created the Leading to Read Program with three initiatives in mind: emergent literacy training for parents; distribution of free literacy backpacks to children who qualify; and ethnic story time. The OEA held three events where all three initiatives were completed. The events were held at the Hunter Library in West Valley City; the Marshall White Center in Ogden City; and the Rose Park elementary in Salt Lake City. There were approximately 175 children and 75 parents who attended.

December 17, 2005 to January 21, 2006
Medicare Rx

The State Office of Ethnic Affairs held various Medicare Rx Enrollment meetings educating a total of 100 people in the Asian, Black, Hispanic/Latino and Pacific Islander communities. The meetings were held at Cottonwood High School, Salt Lake City Library, Calvary Baptist church in Salt Lake City and Ogden and the West Valley Cultural Celebration Center.

January 13, 2006
MLK Luncheon

Every year in January, the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission celebrates Dr. King's ideology of diversity, equality, and human rights for all with the Drum Major Awards Luncheon. Last year the luncheon drew over 500 people to hear guest speaker Honorable Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., Executive Director for the Department of Community & Culture, Yvette D. Diaz and keynote speaker Thurl Bailey. Recognition was given to teachers, businesses, students, etc. for their commitment to "Unity through Diversity".

Adopt-A- School

The Adopt-A-School program, in partnership with the Utah State Office of Education, has annually adopted at least two elementary schools that have demonstrated a commitment to diversity. During fiscal year 2005 the commission adopted a total of 44 schools throughout the state and extended each school's active participation to six months.

Schools visited include:

Iqra Academy of Utah, North Star Elementary, Rowland Hall St. Marks, Riley Elementary, Lynn Elementary, Vista Elementary, Northwest Elementary, Hillfield Elementary, Clearfield Elementary, Sunrise Elementary, East Midvale Elementary, Washington Elementary, Fossil Ridge Middle School, Dixie Downs, Panorama Elementary, Mexican Hat Elementary, Mill Creek Elementary.

January 12, 2006
Health Insurance for the Uninsured

The State Office of Ethnic Affairs, Utah Department of Health and the Utah Insurance Department held "Governor Huntsman's Initiative on Health Insurance for the Uninsured" at the Utah Alliance Business Development Office to provide input as to how the business sector and state government can partner to find solutions on health insurance issues that impact ethnic-owned businesses. Approximately 30 individuals attended this meeting.

January 10, 2006
Ethnic Inmate Transition



The Office of Ethnic Affairs in partnership with the Department of Corrections held an ethnic inmate transition forum, which drew 30 community based organization members. At the forum the Office of Ethnic Affairs, the Department of Corrections and community members discussed the ethnic inmate transition into the community.

Picture: Dept. of Corrections presents during the ethnic inmate transition presentation

November 3-16, 2005

Student Achievement Town Hall Meetings

Governor Huntsman's working group on student achievement held several town hall meetings (Salt Lake County, Weber County, San Juan County, Cache County, Washington County, Utah County) to discuss student achievement throughout the state of Utah. The town hall meetings also provided the ethnic community a forum whereby they could discuss their concerns regarding public education.

November 5, 2005

New Director for OEA Announced

The Department of Community and Culture named the first ever Director for the State Office of Ethnic Affairs. Luz M. Robles was named the Director for the State Office of Ethnic Affairs where she is to oversee the Director's and Staff for the Office of Ethnic Affairs.

November 5, 2005

Civic Participation Training

The Office of Ethnic Affairs held a civic participation training for the ethnic community to encourage civic participation in the legislative process through education and dialogue. We counted with participation of our current and past elected officials as presenters and moderators: Rep. Duane Bourdeaux, Former Senator James Evans, Rep. Ross Romero, Former Rep. Phil Uipi and Rep. Mark Wheatley. Also presenting was Judi Hilman of Utah Issues. Participants identified and sorted issues in the areas of Education, Law Enforcement/ Justice System, Health, Community/Other, and potential bills/legislation to address at the 2006 legislative session.

October 26, 2005

Parent Reading Summit

In partnership with local school districts, school boards, parent organizations, community based organizations and school community councils, the State Office of Ethnic Affairs co-sponsored "A Reading Summit for Parents, Teachers and Friends" at the Utah Valley State College where 750 people attended.

October 15, 2005

Joint Ethnic Advisory Council Retreat

The State Office of Ethnic Affairs held a joint Council retreat for members of the Asian, Black, Hispanic/Latino, & Pacific Islander Ethnic Advisory Council Members at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Salt Lake City. During the retreat Council members engaged in team building exercises, learned more of their role as Ethnic Advisory Council members and compiled a list of issues and/or concerns they felt they needed to be addressed.

August 18, 2005

Multi cultural Health Network

The State Office of Ethnic Affairs partnered with the Utah Multi-Cultural Health Network and the Department of Health to identify solutions for health disparities in the ethnic community. Approximately 225 people attended this event.

Office of Ethnic Affairs Ongoing Resources

OEA's website has a list of community resources, community based organization and media lists as well as a frequently asked section for organizations and constituents.

OEA provides an online calendar for posting state agencies, community based organization and nonprofit organizations events. Events entered in the online calendar include: State of Utah government agency events (e.g. board and commission meetings, health department, department of public safety), events sponsored by Utah government, events sponsored by non-profit organizations, which promote cultural awareness (e.g. arts, celebrations) or education oriented (e.g. workshops, forums, conferences).

Weekly emailing announcements keep community based organizations and community members apprised of cultural and educational events in going on in the community. The emailing list contains over 700 contacts.

The Office of Ethnic Affairs has a Public Policy & Research list who we email to inform of upcoming interim committee meetings. OEA also updates the ethnic community on public policy analysis and research on different issues that impact the ethnic community. In addition, OEA analyzes data on the ethnic population, tracks legislative issues, and provides fact sheets to educate the community and agencies regarding Utah's ethnic population